

Rep. Eileen Cody 11th District

Of special interest to you...

Free help with your income tax return

If you or your family had adjusted gross income of \$25,000 last year, you qualify for free Internet-based tax preparation and electronic filing, thanks to Intuit, Inc., maker of the popular Quicken Turbo Tax tax preparation software.

To take advantage of this, simply log onto www.quicken.com/freedom which will take you to the Quicken Turbo Tax for the Web service. This free service is available through October 16, 2001. Taxpayers who don't qualify for the free service can still use the site, but will be charged a fee for their returns.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal tax credit for eligible individuals and families who work and have earned income under \$31,152. The EITC reduces the amount of tax you owe, and it may give you a refund. Log onto http://www.irs.gov/ind_info/index.html and click Earned Income Tax Credit for more information.

Disaster Assistance

Disaster Unemployment Assistance available to persons — including self-employed persons — who have become unemployed as a result of the earthquake. Go to <http://www.wa.gov/esd/AgencyInfo/newsreleases/nr030701.htm>

11th District receives low-income housing awards

The 11th District has received three low-income housing awards from the Housing Trust Fund of 22 proposals that were funded. Downtown Action to Save Housing will receive \$499,000 to develop 50 units of multi-family housing; Compass Center/Oxford House will receive \$469,317 to develop 12 units of single-family housing; and Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association will receive \$379,391 to develop 22 units of multi-family housing.

Keeping in Touch

Your local library has Internet access if you don't have it at home.

Hotline:

800-562-6000

Hearing impaired:

800-635-9993

E-mail:

cody_ei@leg.wa.gov

Home page:

http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/members/d11_1.htm

House of Representatives

<http://www.leg.wa.gov>

State web page

<http://access.wa.gov>

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Representative
Eileen Cody
11th District
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



2001 Budget Report



Representative

Eileen
Cody

11th District

2001 Budget Report

Dear neighbors,

Just like your family budget, the state has to stay within its means. But the budget also charts the course for our state: the future of our public schools, the directions our highways take and how we care for our disabled and vulnerable elderly citizens.

This year, the budget is especially important and challenging. Our state faces a budget crunch, with health care costs rising \$1 billion and two education initiatives costing another \$900 million, and no new sources of revenue.

Also, the governor has vowed to keep the Legislature in session until we pass a long-term transportation plan.

I'd like to hear what you think. What reforms make the most sense? How can we bring state government into the twenty-first century? What's the best way to unclog our highways? If you have any ideas, or want to find out more about the Legislature, feel free to contact my office.

Inside you'll find a snapshot of the state's operating budget. I hope this helps you better evaluate what you hear in the news about the budget this session.

As always, I welcome suggestions on how to better serve the citizens of the 11th District.

Sincerely,

Eileen Cody
State Representative

How to contact me:

Visit: John L. O'Brien Bldg. 337

Write: P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Office Phone: (360) 786-7978

Toll-free Legislative Hotline:

1-800-562-6000

Hearing Impaired Hotline:

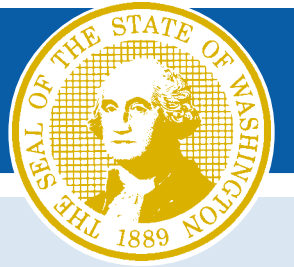
1-800-635-9993

Fax: (360) 786-7317

E-mail: cody_ei@leg.wa.gov

Committees: Health Care, co-chair; Appropriations

How the budget works



A two-year budget

Our state uses a two-year budget, which the Legislature passes on odd-numbered years (1999, 2001, etc).

Writing budgets every two years saves money and time. Back at the nation's capitol, the president submits a budget every year, then the U.S. House and Senate wrestle with the numbers well into October, sometimes even December, before passing a budget and doing it all over again.

In our state, the governor is required to propose a balanced budget that funds services according to current laws. Sometimes, the governor gives lawmakers two budgets: a "current law" budget of what has to happen by law, then a second budget of what the governor really wants after passing new laws, cutting some programs and adding others.

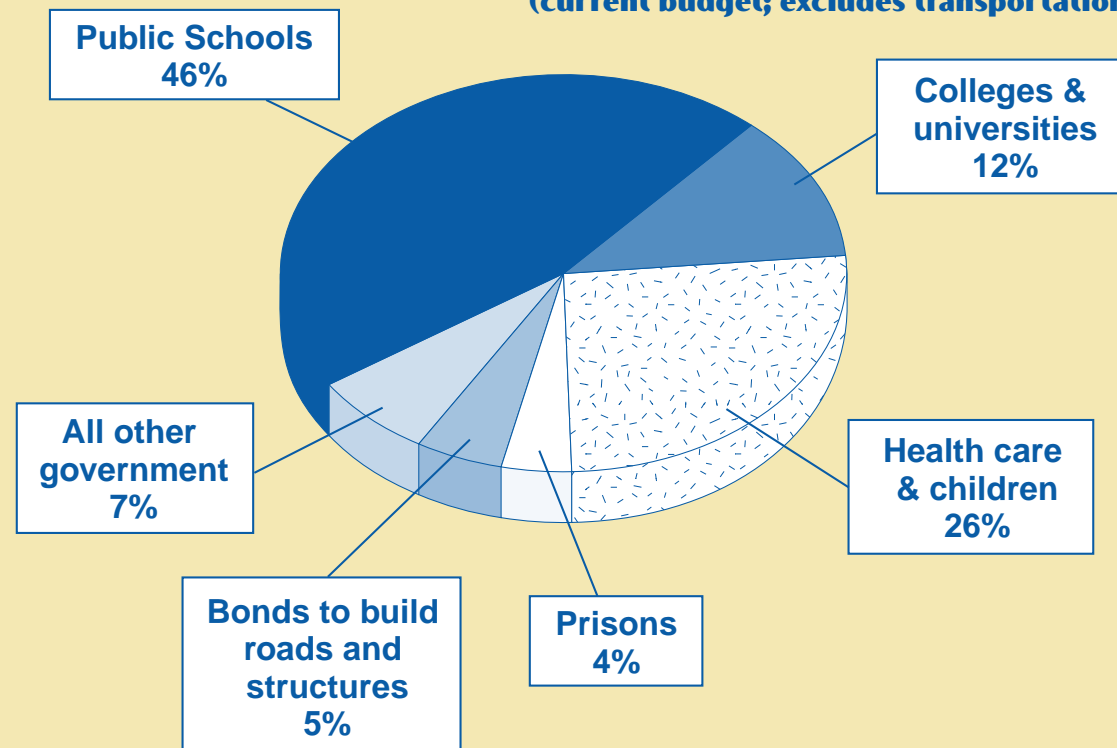
Taking turns

The House and Senate both have budget-writing committees — Appropriations in the House, then Ways and Means in the Senate — and each chamber takes turns taking the first shot at writing the state budget.

This year, it's the Senate's turn to come up with the first proposed budget before sending it to the House.

The operating budget at a glance

(current budget; excludes transportation)



Deep cuts this year

Gov. Gary Locke's proposed budget includes \$1.2 billion in cuts. Despite our state's healthy economy, the state must look at cuts due to four factors:

1. The state's legal spending limit;
2. Health care costs rose \$1 billion;
3. Two education initiatives mandate spending of up to \$900 million; and
4. Savings we enjoyed in the last budget — including extraordinary pension returns and the tobacco settlement — don't exist in this new budget.
5. The Nisqually earthquake will cost millions in repairs to buildings and roads.

Quality long-term care

Quality in-home care can keep disabled and frail elderly in their homes and independent. Our caregiver system is in jeopardy because of poor and declining wages, lack of health insurance, insufficient training and career advancement, frequent injuries and schedules that require more work in less time. Many workers are overworked, unappreciated, and poorly utilized, resulting in high turnover and worker burnout.

We need to providing a good deal for in-home workers and those who receive care. To do this, I support:

- A central "clearinghouse" for in-home worker referrals, background checks and training opportunities.
- Tuition vouchers at community colleges for improving existing skills and gaining new expertise.
- Affordable health insurance that is both available and affordable.



Holding down health care costs

As a purchaser of health care insurance and services for low-income residents and state workers, the state is a major buyer of prescription drugs. And the cost of those medicines is putting ever greater pressure on the state budget.

- During the 1999-01 budget period, about one-fourth of the state's general fund, or about \$5 billion, will go toward the purchase of health care services.
- Total general fund spending on health care is expected to increase to \$6 billion during the next biennium – a 20 percent increase.
- Total prescription drug spending is estimated at \$1.2 billion – 37 percent more than was spent during the previous biennium.



Proposals to make prescriptions more affordable for consumers

As concern about the impact of increasing drug costs rises, Washington's Legislature is looking at a number of proposals to determine what can be done to control costs increases. Among the options put forward to date are:

Drug Education and Utilization Review (HB 1652). This would create a program to get the right drug to the right person at the right time, while building the state's purchasing power to get better prices from manufacturers.

Consolidated Purchasing Prescription Drug Discount Program (HB 1319/SB 5026). Under this bill, the state would be directed to consolidate drug purchasing for all its health care and other programs. Citizens age 55 and older would be eligible for discounts negotiated with manufacturers. While it's technically a dead bill, we're hopeful it can be resurrected this session.